

Solving the Parking Puzzle



The last time most of us thought about parking regulations is when we took our driver's test. Take this refresher course and see how you do.

1. A car parked in your driveway can block the sidewalk.

- A. Yes, my garage is full
- B. Yes, we have more than two cars
- C. No, this is hazardous for pedestrians

2. How far are you required to park from a fire hydrant?

- A. 5 feet
- B. 10 feet
- C. 15 feet

3. There is a crosswalk ahead; how far from it should you park?



- A. 10 feet
- B. 20 feet
- C. A car length

4. A car is parked 10 feet from a stop sign. Is it legally parked?

- A. Yes
- B. No

5. What is the proper way to park in a cul-de-sac?

- A. Head-in, front wheels at the curb
- B. Passenger-side wheels parallel and less than 18" from the curb

6. You can store a car on the public street for 72 hours.

- A. True
- B. False

7. If a car is parked within 18" of the curb, it does not matter which direction it is facing.

- A. True
- B. False

Check your answers on the reverse side

The Solutions

1. **C** - Although your driveway may extend to the sidewalk, the sidewalk is the public right-of-way. A blocked sidewalk forces a pedestrian, a child on a bike or a person in a wheelchair into a street with their back to the traffic.
2. **C** - A car should park **15 feet** from a hydrant. This allows clear access by Firemen in the case of an emergency.
3. **B - 20 feet** – This helps prevent a parked car from blocking the line of vision if anyone is in the crosswalk.
4. **B - No** - A car should park 30 feet or more from a stop sign or traffic signal.
5. **B** - Both passenger wheels of the vehicle should be parallel and less than 18" from the curb. Cars parked head-in block the moving lane of traffic.
6. **B - False** A car should not remain **parked for more than 24 hours** on the public road. This helps to prevent the neighborhood blight created by junked and abandoned cars.
7. **B - False** – Both passenger side wheels must be within 18" of the curb. When a car parked facing the wrong direction leaves the curb, it pulls head on into oncoming traffic.

See the Texas Transportation Code 545.302-303 and Houston Code of Ordinances Chapter 26 for a list of parking regulations.

Let us help parking make sense for your neighborhood. Our **Street Smarts** presentation provides an overview of parking safety for neighborhoods. Schedule your presentation today!



Parking
Management

Parking Management Division

2020 McKinney Houston, TX 77003

parking@houstontx.org

832-393-8690

facebook



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